



fairwisconsin

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Good morning to the members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. I am Abigail Swetz, my pronouns are she/her, and I am here as the executive director of Fair Wisconsin, Wisconsin's only statewide LGBTQ+ civil rights and political advocacy organization. I am also here as a former coach, a current mom, and an athlete and fan of women's sports. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of Assembly Bill 102.

Two weeks into this new federal administration, the president issued an executive order that reads a lot like this bill and the K-12 sports bill I testified against last Thursday. One day later, the NCAA announced it would exclude trans women from collegiate athletic competitions. That same week, Fair Wisconsin held a webinar to explain the implications of the multiple anti-trans executive orders that had already been issued, and to take questions from our community. We had over 140 questions submitted. Of course, a few were repeats, and one of the questions that was asked multiple times that evening was this: "Is being transgender a crime now?" A trans Wisconsinite asked, "Am I a crime now?" I said no, I attempted to reassure the questioners that they had not been criminalized by the stroke of a president's pen, and yet I could not assuage their fear, and I could not tell them they were safe.

I am telling you this story because this attempt to ban trans women from playing college sports does not exist in a vacuum. It is within this hostile environment, as a federal government continues to ramp up its animosity towards some of the most marginalized residents of this country, that the Wisconsin State Legislature is choosing to double-down on exclusion and hold a hearing on this bill that targets some of the most marginalized residents of our state.

AB 102 would codify discrimination against trans people into Wisconsin state law, all by targeting the tiny number of trans female athletes who still want to play sports despite the challenges they face for just wanting to belong to a team, including even an intramural sports team. By definition, the players on an intramural team are doing it for the love of the game and the team, not divisional titles.

While anti-trans athlete sports bans may impact only a small number of young people with direct policy, the message they send reverberates throughout the trans community, and our entire Wisconsin community, because these bills are an attempt to control who can exist publicly and freely in our society.

Sports is always about more than just the score, more than just the game. I should know - I live in Green Bay. These bills are about more than just the makeup of a team; they are about excluding trans people from public life, and we cannot allow that, especially when our trans community is facing so much hostility from other levels of government.

I urge the committee to vote *no* on AB 102.